

**VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Minutes of April 24, 2007**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Richard Suitor, Trustees Samantha Baraw, Libby Hambleton, Tom McCarney, and Jim Wilson. Also present were Village Manager Nanci Allard, Verne DuClos (Farmers Market), Jean Barberi (Farmers Market), Romiz Mujkanovic (Farmers Market), and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News & Transcript*).

Chair Suitor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled):** None.

III. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **April 10, 2007 (Budget Meeting #5).** Motion by Trustee Baraw, seconded by Trustee McCarney, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 3-0-2, with Trustees Hambleton and Wilson abstaining.**
2. **April 10, 2007 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 4-0-1, with Trustee Wilson abstaining.**
3. **April 17, 2007 (Budget Meeting #6).** Motion by Trustee Wilson, seconded by Trustee McCarney, to approve the minutes. Paragraph re: "Electric Department". This item should read "to approve after adjustments" instead of "for the ensuing year as presented." Also, paragraph 7, should read "...hybrid automobiles and economical solutions and report back...." **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

b. **Approval of Bills**

1. **Warrant #21-07.** Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to approve Warrant #21-07 in the amount of \$82,080.80. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- c. **Approval of 2007 Village Meeting Warning.** Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to approve the warning. With the budget as presented, it is estimated that the Village Tax Rate will remain the same. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- d. **Executive Summary: Bridge Inspection Reports.** Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to sign the receipt form. There was a question on the Pleasant Street Bridge. There was a note that "Scour critical – immediate action required". Kathleen Lott was curious as to what kind of immediate action was required. Manager Allard is unsure but will look into this. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- e. **Farmers Market on Village Common.** Verne DuClos would like to start a Farmers Market in Northfield. This is a separate group from the one that approached the Village earlier on this issue. Mr. Duclos is proposing Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. They would like to start the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May (if possible). The Board first would like to see a proposal from the Manager.

- f. **Village Forest.** There was a discussion during budget talks to have the Village Forest surveyed for boundaries. Manager Allard is looking to move forward and to have guidance to have a survey done for timber review and possible sale. Trustee McCarney would like to have a presentation to the Board for a long-term plan from the County Forester. He would like a recommendation from the County Forester, the Manager, and (possibly) the Board of Recreation.

#### IV. REPORTS

##### a. Village Manager

1. **VPPSA Retreat.** Manager Allard will be attending the VPPSA Retreat in Stowe this coming Thursday and Friday.

##### b. Committee Reports

1. **Merger Committee.** The Merger Committee met April 16, 2007, and there was discussion of options for merger and other communities that had successfully merged over the past few years. There were no reports back yet from the subcommittees. The next meeting is Monday, May 14, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.
2. **Management Committee.** The Management Committee will meet soon to discuss the various joint policies.

##### c. Miscellaneous

1. **Efficiency Vermont Project update.** There was a meeting last Thursday and there is progress on the goal of the reduction of electricity use. There are some businesses that are working with Efficiency Vermont to have evaluations done. Once these are done, we expect that the recommendations will be done and this will make significant progress in the reduction. There is another meeting in May.
2. **Water Project update.** There is nothing new to report. We will have further discussions after the next meeting. We would like to see a display at the Village Meeting, though, and the diagrams of Phase III.
3. **Municipal Building Air Quality Report.** Trustee McCarney is looking for a report on the air quality report. There were allegations that there were “adverse health effects”. Manager Allard stated that ATC came and did the survey last week and we should have results in a few weeks.
4. **Extension Line for Dupere Property.** The line had power to the saw mill; they had power after the fire. Northfield signed off on an Act 250 permit for the power. When we did the upgrade, the decision was made to take the power lines down, but keep the poles. Trustee McCarney stated he did not hear any records with the Public Service Board to “abandon the lines.” We’re still carrying the poles on our inventory system, so we have not “abandon the lines”. We have not notified the current property owners, nor the past property owners, that we would abandon the lines. Trustee McCarney is concerned of where our obligation is on these lines. Does our obligation end at the end of the current lines, or at the end of where the lines would be? Chair Suitor recommends that we have not heard anything further from the Public Service Board and therefore we should not pursue the issue at this time.

#### V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Unscheduled): None.

#### VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. **Personnel Issue.** Motion by Trustee Wilson, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

Board went into executive session at 8:27 p.m.

Without objection, the Board came out of executive session at 8:37 p.m. No action was taken.

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT: Without objection, the Board adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Samantha H. Baraw*

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.